

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 have been examined and rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Preliminary Matters

The Examiner has not acknowledged the drawings filed on December 16, 2003.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to indicate, in the next Office Action, whether the drawings are acceptable.

Also, Applicant has made a minor amendment to claim 5 to correct a spelling error. Such amendment is not made in view of the prior art and does not narrow the scope of the claim.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,462,905 to Takahashi et al. (“Takahashi”) (assigned to Fuji Photo Film Co., Ltd.).

A. Claim 1

Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference. For example, claim 1 recites that the disc portion comprises a brake gear, and the rim portion extends in a diametric direction beyond an outer peripheral portion of the brake gear (as shown in the non-limiting embodiment of Fig. 7 of the present Application).

As set forth by the Examiner, the brake member 4 has a disc portion 41 and a rim portion (i.e., outer peripheral edge of braking gear 42) (Fig. 1; col. 6, lines 6-9). However, contrary to the recitations of claim 1, the alleged rim portion of Takahashi does not extend beyond the braking gear 42. For example, as shown in the non-limiting embodiment of Fig. 7, and discussed on pgs. 26 and 27 of the present Application, the rim portion 98 extends beyond the edge of the brake gear 74A.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Takahashi fails to teach each and every feature recited in claim 1, and respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

B. Claims 2-15

Since claims 2-15 are dependent upon claim 1, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

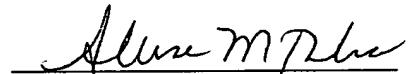
Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/735,760

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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